GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:144
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2016
Poor Quality Imports
Vanaroja Smt. R.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether increasing tariff or imposing quantitative restrictions alone is likely to completely prevent poor quality and undesirable imports into the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the other steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;
(c) whether the Government is considering to set a standard for import of goods; and
(d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) to (d) Increase of tariff or imposition of Quantitative Restrictionare measures to regulate the volume of imports of particular commodities. Technical regulations, also called mandatory standards, play a much more important role globally in checking import of poor quality goods.

WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) empowers member countries to mandate standards on goodswith the objective of maintaining national security requirements; prevention of deceptive practices; protection of environment, animal or plant life or health;human health or safety. Similarly, WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures empowers member countries to mandate standards on goodswith the objective of protecting human, animal or plant life or health.

Various ministries and agencies in Government of India like Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Ministry of Steel, Department of Electronics & Information Technology, etc. are pursuing these objectives and have mandated standards in the recent past. Any standard mandated by the national authority is equally applicable to domestically manufactured products as well as imported products.

Also, the Department of Commerce has been organizing National Standards Conclaves to sensitize stakeholders/ministries to meet the objectives of the standards like protection of human health or safety, animal or plant life or health, the prevention of deceptive practices, national security requirements or the environment with a view to protect the interests of consumers. The central government is also pursuing the agenda with the state governments and last year, five regional standards conclaves were organized to generate awareness across the country.

******